

Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 USSS-00 SY-04 OPR-01 A-01 AID-05

OMB-01 DRC-01 /070 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 798

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 12457

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, XF, CA, US

SUBJECT: CANADIAN CONCERN OVER SHIBBU GANG

REF: STATE 223941

1. WE HAVE CONSULTED THREE TIMES IN PAST FIVE DAYS WITH COUNSELLOR (CHRETIEN) OF CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE. HE WAS NOT RPT NOT SO MUCH INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING BACKGROUND INFO RE SHIBBU GANG (HAVING ELICITED IT FROM OTHER SOURCES) AS HE WAS IN LEARNING ABOUT SPECIFIC PROTECTIVE MEASURES BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THIS EMBASSY AGAINST VARIOUS REAL AND POTENTIAL SECURITY THREATS POSED BY SHIBBU GANG AND OTHER TERRORIST ELEMENTS, INCLUDING FEDAYEEN. AFTER HAVING REVIEWED THIS SUBJECT THOROUGHLY WITH RSO AND POLSEC CHIEF, CHRETIEN DISCUSSED HIS EMBASSY'S SECURITY SITUATION WITH LEBANESE FONOFF AND INTERNAL SECURITY OFFICIALS. HE INFORMS US THAT LATTER ARE DISPLAYING CLEAR DESIRE TO BE AS COOPERATIVE AS POSSIBLE IN RESPONDING TO CANADIAN SECURITY CONCERNS AND HAVE READILY AGREED PROVIDE PROTECTION REQUESTED BY CANADIANS. (WE UNDERSTAND THIS INCLUDES BEEFED-UP

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STATIC GUARDS MOUNTED AROUND THE CLOCK AT EMBASSY AND

AMBASSADOR AMYOT'S RESIDENCE, FREQUENT MOBILE PATROLS
SURVEILING HOMES OF SENIOR EMBOFFS AND LOCAL BANK OF
CANADA OFFICE, AND TWO DETECTIVES ASSIGNED TO RENTED
FOLLOW-CAR THAT WILL DOG AMYOT'S MOVEMENTS. AMYOT HAS
NO RPT NO ARMORED SEDAN, IS NOT RPT NOT PERSONALLY
ARMED, BUT HE ALREADY HAS
AN EXPERIENCED LEBANESE
BODYGUARD WHO ACCOMPANIES HIM AT ALL TIMES.)

2. WHILE WE HAVE RECEIVED NO RECENT INFO RE ANY
SPECIFIC OR DIRECT THREAT BY SHIBBU GANG AGAINST
AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS
GROUP HAS MADE UP TO 50 THREATS IN RECENT MONTHS AGAINST
LOCAL AND FOREIGN BUSINESSES AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
HERE--ALL APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO EXTORT MONEY IN ONE
WAY OR ANOTHER. AT SAME TIME, WE SUSPECT SHIBBU
GANG OF EITHER HAVING PERPETRATED, OR AT LEAST
HAVING TIES WITH PERPETRATORS OF, VARIOUS BOMB ATTACKS
AGAINST AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS HERE IN PAST YEAR
(BEIRUT 10444, 12358, AND 9388). TO BEST OUR
KNOWLEDGE, SHIBBU HIMSELF IS APPARENTLY STILL HOLED
UP IN ONE OF BEIRUT'S LARGER PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS,
AND WE THINK IT HIGHLY LIKELY THAT MANY OF HIS GANG'S
ANTI-AMERICAN OPERATIONS ARE UNDERTAKEN WITH ENCOURAGE-
MENT, IF NOT ACTUALLY AT BEHEST, OF RADICAL FEDAYEEN
ELEMENTS. (IN CASE OF LAST OCTOBER'S ATTACK ON BANK
OF AMERICA HERE, WE HAD REASON TO SUSPECT PFLP IN-
VOLVEMENT. IN CASE OF MORE RECENT BOMB INCIDENTS IN
SYRIA AND PERHAPS IN LEBANON, WE NOTE SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE
CHIEF SHEHABI'S HUNCH--REPORTED DAMASCUS 2348--RE
PFLP OR PFLP/GENERAL COMMAND INVOLVEMENT.)
GODLEY

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